	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES **CHILD WELFARE POLICY**	
	Chapter 15: Eligibility	**Effective Date:** January 1, 2020
	Section 6: Deprivation	**Version:** 3

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will determine if a child meets deprivation criteria. In order to be eligible for Title IV-E Foster Care (Title IV-E) funding, the child must be deprived of parental support or care during the removal month by at least one (1) of the following:
1. Death;
2. Continued absence from the home;
3. Physical or mental incapacity; or
4. Unemployment/under employment of a parent.

Code References
1. 42 USC 672(a), (h), and (j): Removal and foster care placement requirements
2. 45 CFR 1356.21(l): Living with a specified relative
3. 45 CFR 233.10: General provisions regarding coverage and eligibility
4. 465 IAC 2-7-5: Title IV-E; foster care eligibility

PROCEDURE

The DCS Central Eligibility Unit (CEU) will:
1. Review the eligibility information in the case management system; and
2. Make a determination of whether deprivation exists.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Death
Prior to removal of the child from the specified relative's home, either parent is deceased.

Continued Absence
Prior to the child's removal from the home, one (1) or both parents are continually absent from the home. Examples include:
1. The parent has been physically absent from the home for an undefined period of time and the absence is expected to exceed 30 calendar days into the future;
2. The parent's absence interrupts or terminates the parent's ability to care for the child; or
3. The absence of the parent precludes him or her from providing support or care for the child.

Reasons for continued absence may include, but are not limited to:
1. The parent is living at a separate address;

Exception: The child would not be deprived if the parent is absent from the home due solely to active duty in a uniformed service of the United States, school attendance, or employment.

2. The parent was incarcerated prior to removal and for reasons unrelated to the child's removal;
3. The parent has abandoned the child;
4. The child was adopted by a single parent; or
5. The child was conceived using artificial insemination (donor unknown).

A special circumstance in which a child is considered deprived by continued absence occurs when a parent is released from a correctional institution to the child's home while serving a court imposed sentence, performing unpaid public work, or community service.

Physical or Mental Incapacity
Prior to the child's removal from the home, a parent has a physical or mental impairment that is expected to last at least 30 days and substantially reduces or eliminates that parent's ability to support and care for his or her child. Although a parent may not be receiving a formal source of income for a disability, the parent may still be considered incapacitated for the purposes of deprivation, based on available documentation.

> **Note:** A parent receiving Supplemental Social Security Income (SSI) or Retirement, Survivors, Disability Insurance (RSDI) from the Social Security Administration for his or her own disability is considered an incapacitated parent.

Unemployment/Under Employment
The assistance group's income is less than the standards of need. See separate policy, 15.5 Assistance Group for additional information about the determination of the size of the assistance group and separate policy, 15.7 Income Requirements for additional information on the standards of need.

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. Title IV-E and Title IV-A/EA Information (SF55435)
2. Preliminary Inquiry

RELATED INFORMATION

Child Residing with a Parent in a Licensed Residential Family-Based Treatment Facility for Substance Abuse
Children placed with a parent residing in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse may be eligible for Title IV-E regardless of whether the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) criteria related to deprivation are met.